



Extended Benefits (EB) Program *Rights & Responsibilities*

Purpose of the Michigan Extended Benefits Program

The purpose of the Extended Benefits (EB) program is to pay unemployment benefits during periods of high unemployment to workers, including federal civilian employees and ex-military personnel, who exhausted their basic entitlement to regular state and federal unemployment benefits. The State of Michigan and the federal government share in the cost of the benefits paid under the EB program.

Some Questions and Answers About the Michigan Extended Benefits Program

1. *Who is entitled to Extended Benefits?*

You may be entitled to EB if you:

- Are unemployed or underemployed.
- Had established eligibility for state or federal unemployment benefits and have exhausted those benefits (also exhausted all entitlement to Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)).
- Do not have available regular benefits under the unemployment compensation laws of any state, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Canada, the District of Columbia, or the federal government of the United States.
- Meet the eligibility requirements of the law and are not disqualified.
- Have a regular state claim benefit year that ends.

Not everyone is entitled to Extended Benefits. For example, an individual whose benefit year ended before the beginning of an Extended Benefit period will not be eligible for Extended Benefits. In addition, an individual who was disqualified on their regular unemployment claim for one of the following reasons will not be eligible for Extended Benefits: refusal of work, imprisonment, labor dispute, assault and battery, theft, willful destruction, failure to notify a temporary help firm, or illegal drugs.

2. *What does it mean to have “exhausted” my benefits?*

For purposes of the Michigan EB program, you have exhausted your rights to regular unemployment benefits and EUC when: a) you have received all the benefits to which you were entitled in a benefit year under a state or federal program; **OR** b) your benefit year has expired before you have drawn all your benefits and no new benefit year can be established.

3. What is an Extended Benefit period?

You can only be paid EB for weeks of unemployment during an EB period. The U.S. Department of Labor determines the EB period for a state based on unemployment data from the state. The EB period can be triggered “on” when Michigan’s Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) for a 13-week period averages at least 5% and is 20% higher than the average IUR for the same period in the preceding two years.

4. How much will I receive under this program and for how long?

When an EB period is in effect and you have exhausted your **regular** benefits, you may be eligible to receive EB amounting to 50% of your regular entitlement, or a maximum of 13 weeks.

Example 1: If your Michigan determination was for \$2,600 (\$100 a week for 26 weeks), your EB will be \$1,300 (\$100 a week for 13 weeks).

Example 2: If your Michigan determination was for \$4,000 (\$200 a week for 20 weeks), your EB will be \$2,000 (\$200 a week for 10 weeks).

Regardless of the number of weeks you are entitled to, you **cannot** be paid EB **after** an EB period ends.

5. What other requirements must I meet to be eligible for Extended Benefits?

Your eligibility for EB will be determined in the same manner as were your rights to regular state or federal benefits. You must be unemployed or underemployed, and be able to work and available for work.

You must have a verified registration for work (resume) on file with the Michigan Works! Agency (MWA) BEFORE reporting using MARVIN to claim your first week of EB. The MWA will notify the UIA that you have registered for work. For MWA locations, call 1-800-285-WORK.

You must also contact MARVIN, either by telephone at 1-866-638-3993, or online at <http://www.michigan.gov/uia>, and click on the link, “MARVIN Online” under “UIA Online Services for Unemployed Workers.” You must be diligently seeking work during each week for which you are claiming EB. See “Special EB Work Search Requirements” below.

Special EB Work Search Requirement, Including Form UIA 1583

An unemployed worker eligible for EB must make a more diligent search for work than would normally be required if you were receiving regular unemployment benefits. You must make a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work during each week you are claiming Extended Benefits. Federal guidelines define a systematic and sustained search for work, as a planned, methodical search for work conducted throughout each week claimed for EB (or as the criteria set forth by the state workforce agency for the various labor markets within the state). You must seek work with at least 3 employers in each week you are claiming benefits. You must report to the UIA your work search efforts for each week you claim Extended Benefits.

If you are claiming Extended Benefits by calling MARVIN at 1-866-638-3993: You must complete Form UIA 1583, listing on this form the places where you looked for work each week and give details and results of each work search contact. The completed, signed, and dated form must be mailed or faxed to the UIA **BEFORE** you call MARVIN for the weeks involved in the work search.

If you are claiming Extended Benefits by using MARVIN Online at <http://www.michigan.gov/uia>: You must submit your work search efforts on a different link on our web site for the two week period you are claiming EB for. Access our web site and click on the link, “UIA Online Services for Unemployed Workers” and follow the instructions. You must give details and results of each work search contact for the two-week period you are claiming. This must be done at the same time you certify (claim benefits) using MARVIN Online.

If you've been approved by the UIA to use paper certification forms (sent in by mail or fax): You must complete Form UIA 1583. You are required to list on this form the places where you looked for work and give details and results of each work search contact. The completed, signed, and dated Form UIA 1583 must be returned with your certification form.

If you are in training approved by a Michigan Works Agency! Service Center: You should continue to certify by mail and attach your training attendance form. You **do not** need to complete Form UIA 1583 for any week that you are attending approved training.

SUITABLE WORK: The law provides that after filing your claim for EB, you must apply for and accept any suitable work as defined below:

Under the requirements of federal law relating to the EB Program, suitable work is any work you are capable of doing. If you refuse any job within your capability, you will be disqualified if:

- a) The gross weekly pay offered is more than your EB weekly benefit rate plus any SUB pay you receive from your former employer; and
- b) The offered pay is at least the federal minimum wage; and
- c) The offer is either in writing or the job is listed by the employer with Michigan Works!

6. Under what circumstances would I be disqualified for Extended Benefits?

You are subject to the same disqualifications under the EB program as under Michigan's regular benefits program. In addition, the law provides that you must be disqualified from EB if you do not meet the seeking work requirements, or if you fail to apply for, or accept, suitable work. If disqualified, the only way you can again become entitled to EB is to get a job and work for at least 4 weeks and earn at least 4 times your EB weekly benefit rate. If you did not seek work during a week, you should elect not to claim EB for that week. By claiming that week, you will be disqualified for further benefits until you work for 4 weeks and earn at least 4 times your EB weekly benefit rate.

7. When will Extended Benefits start?

Payments may be made only during an EB period and can be made for any weeks that begin prior to the ending date of an EB period. The law permitting EB payments in Michigan was effective with the week ending 1/10/2009 and thereafter. The first payable week begins 1/25/2009.

8. When will an Extended Benefit period end?

The EB period will end whenever the state Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) drops below the EB trigger levels (see Item 3). However, once an EB period begins, it will continue for at least 13 consecutive weeks. A new EB period cannot begin with a state trigger until the 14th week after the end of a prior EB period.

9. What will happen to my Extended Benefits if new regular state or federal benefit rights become available to me?

Any time you become eligible for regular state or federal benefits, you must file a new claim for regular benefits and your eligibility for EB will end. If an EB period is in effect when you exhaust regular benefits, you may again qualify for EB based on a new claim.

10. How do federal Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits affect Extended Benefits?

You must exhaust all EUC benefit entitlement before you may be eligible for Extended Benefits.

11. How do I apply for Extended Benefits?

A notice regarding possible eligibility for EB is automatically mailed to unemployed workers who may meet the requirements for qualifying for EB (outlined in #1 of this handout). If you receive such notice, and are unemployed or underemployed at this time, you may qualify for EB. To qualify, you must apply for benefits on the UIA's web site, <http://www.michigan.gov/uia>, Monday 7:00 a.m. THROUGH Saturday 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Click on the "File an EUC or EB Extension" link, which is on the home page. If you are unable to apply for EB online, call us at 1-866-500-0017, and choose the "File a Claim" option. Filing a claim by telephone is available from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM*, Monday through Wednesday, Eastern Time, at the number above. If you missed your scheduled day and time, you can file by telephone at 1-866-500-0017 any time between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM* on Thursday or Friday of that same week.

IMPORTANT: Interstate EB claims against Michigan and other states may be filed in the same manner as regular interstate claims. However, although Michigan may have an EB period in effect, some states may not. The law provides that any unemployed worker who files a new, additional, or continued interstate claim for EB in another state that is not in an EB period must be limited to a maximum payment of only two weeks.

12. Will I have the right of appeal under the Extended Benefit program?

Yes. You have the same appeal rights under the EB program as under the regular benefit program.

13. Does the law provide any penalties?

Yes, under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001, knowingly and willfully concealing a material fact by any trick, scheme, or device or knowingly making a false statement in connection with this claim is a federal offense, punishable by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. You will be required to pay back any benefits improperly received plus any applicable penalties. If, by mistake, you gave incorrect information when you filed your claim, notify us as soon as you realize it, in order to avoid penalties.

The information in this pamphlet is meant to assist informing you of your rights to Extended Benefits. It does not have the force of law or rule. If you have any additional questions, call our toll-free number at 1-866-500-0017 (TTY callers use 1-866-366-0004) Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM (Eastern Time).

***Note: The 4:30 PM times have been extended on a temporary basis until 6:00 PM.**



DELEG is an equal opportunity employer/program.

